

## INFORMATION PAPER

AETV-GE  
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**SUBJECT:** Exercise Support Arrangements (ESAs) for Unit-initiated Corps Training Outside of Germany

1. **Purpose.** Provide an overview of essential requirements for establishing ESAs for Corps units.
2. **Background.** Numerous Corps units have requested to train in countries out of Central Region (Germany). Under established treaties and associated international agreements, US Forces and other Germany-based allies possess well-defined rights, privileges, and immunities for training in Germany. New and prospective NATO states do not yet afford a comparable legal “umbrella”, necessitating separate international agreements, ESAs, for each individual training event. ESA-building is not for amateurs: there are shifting line-ups of Host Nation authorities and a frequent tendency to treat each new event as a fresh opportunity to ignore the NATO SOFA (where it applies), and sound past practices (where they exist), in pursuit of “better bargains” or on new policy grounds. ESAs require extensive coordination among Corps, USAREUR and USEUCOM. Average timeline is 6 months for small scale exercises and 12 months for large.
3. **Discussion.** USAREUR G8 is the Theater (USEUCOM) functional lead for ESAs—other Theater key players include Exercises, Contracting, Claims, Real Estate, Maneuver Management, Judge Advocates, and others. Numerous conferences, site surveys, and recons are required to mold details of law, finance, operations and logistics into a final product. At the outset, units must adequately plan and allocate sufficient resources—human, capital, material and time. V Corps G5 Maneuver Management serves as US Forces Executive Agent and Theater Program Manager responsible for the approval, coordination and the conduct of Off-installation land, airborne, and waterborne training operations in Germany and throughout the US Army Europe Area of Responsibility. This role involves frequent, close coordination with the other Theater ESA proponents. Presently, there is no higher headquarters governing regulation or published policy guidance for the ESA process.
4. **Recommendations.** USAREUR formalizes policy and procedures for establishing ESAs. In the interim, V Corps G5 Maneuver Management serves as Corps Single Point-of-Contact for ESAs. For information and assistance, go to: <http://www.vcorps.army.mil/g5/maneuver>

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